

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

EUR-25 (ISO) W

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R 071022Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 1343

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6491

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE

SUBJ: SHIPBOARD MISSILE SYSTEMS

REF: LIMA 5679 NOTAL

1. NAVY MINISTER ARCE HAS ONCE AGAIN ASKED THAT THE USG REPLY TO THE GOP'S REQUEST FOR SHIPBOARD SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILES.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH MAAG CHIEF BREWINGTON, ARCE SHOWED LATTER A COPY OF A PERUVIAN NAVY INTELLIGENCE REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES REPORTING THAT CHILE IS BUYING THE HARPOON MISSILE FROM U.S. ARCE ADDED THAT PERU IS NOT INTERESTED IN WAR WITH CHILE. HE SAID GOP WANTS AT LEAST PARITY WITH CHILE AND IF USG SELLS HARPOON TO CHILE, IT SHOULD MAKE THE SAME WEAPON AVAILABLE TO PERU. HE CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. IS SELLING ARMAMENTS TO CHILE USING TOKEN PRICES BECAUSE THE CHILEAN ECONOMY CANNOT AFFORD A \$100 MILLION ARMS BUDGET. ARCE STATED THAT CHILE HAD A 3:1 ADVANTAGE IN THE NAVY. HE CONTINUED THAT PERU HAD TO DECIDE SOON ON TYPE OF MISSILES TO BE PLACED ON THE ITALIAN-BUILT FRIGATES. HE MENTIONED THAT ITALY OFFERED TWO TYPES OF MISSILES BUT PERU
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WANTED A U.S. SYSTEM. ARCE ADDED THAT HE WANTED TO HAVE THE U.S.

NAVY'S RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPROPRIATE MISSILE USES AND TYPES AND THAT HE KNEW THAT IF THE USG SENT EXPERTS AS ADVISORS IT DID NOT COMMIT THE U.S. TO FURNISH ARMAMENTS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REITERATES REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR A STATUS REPORT ON THIS QUESTION, INCLUDING OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SENDING A SMALL NAVY TEAM TO EXAMINE PERUVIAN REQUEST. DEPENDING ON TEAM'S FINDING, USG WOULD DECIDE WHETHER SHIPBOARD MISSILE SYSTEMS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE SOLD TO PERU. ARCE STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT HE REALIZES THAT A USG DECISION TO SEND A TEAM DOES NOT COMMIT US TO FURNISH WEAPONS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: MASS, PE, US, (ARCE LARGO, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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